

VZCZCXRO9909
RR RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHVL #0793 2361341
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 241341Z AUG 06 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0522
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VILNIUS 000793

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/NB, NEA, PM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/23/2016

TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [LH](#) [LE](#)

SUBJECT: LITHUANIA'S FINAL ANSWER: NO TROOPS TO UNIFIL

REF: A) VILNIUS 789 AND PREVIOUS B) SECSTATE 134133

¶1. (U) Classified By: Pol/Econ Chief Rebecca Dunham for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶2. (C) Lithuania will not be making troop contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), despite earlier indications of its serious desire to do so. Lithuania's Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense issued a joint statement August 23 declaring that Lithuania saw no possibilities to contribute to UNIFIL. Middle East desk officer Jurate Ramoskiene confirmed to us August 24 that consideration of the issue was over and this was a final decision with respect to the current appeal.

¶3. (C) Comment: The decision not to send troops to Lebanon does not come as a complete surprise. The GOL had repeatedly told us (ref A) that if it made a troop contribution, it would be small. It takes seriously its pre-existing commitments in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo, and is feeling stretched. The 300,000 lita (about 87,000 euro) Lithuanian pledge of humanitarian assistance to UNIFIL, though small, came quickly. In addition, we hope that the GOL will press its European partners to do more to ensure peace in Lebanon.
CLOUD